

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 4 and 15; claims 1-3, 7-14 and 18-24 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 4-6 and 15-17 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-4, 7-14 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popovic et al. (US 6,370,397) in view of Li, *et al.* (US 2003/0083014). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 1-4, 7-14 and 18-24 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popovic et al. (US 6,370,397) in view of Li, *et al.* (US 2003/0083014) in further view of Saito et al. US 200/10014116. In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 23 and 24 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 4-6, 15-17. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 4 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

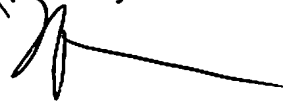
Claims 5-6 and 16-17 depend from amended claims 4 and 15, respectively, and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 4 and 15. Therefore, the allowance of claims 4-6 and 15-17 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 1, 2009

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